Design & Technology Success

If you only had 12 months, could you design a portable cocktail bar or a more efficient mulching shovel? What about a portable water supply for sporting teams or a music desk that converts into a music stand? These were just some of the challenges tackled by senior design students for their Major Design Projects.

Sam Currie designed ‘Retract-a-Fence’ a lightweight, portable electric fence that simply retracts like a tape measure. Michael Godden developed a new garden tool to help shovel mulch more efficiently – a blend between a shovel and a fork called the ‘Garden Shork’. Declan Haigh created a better way to transport a snowboard and accessories, while Adam Smiles designed a specialised first aid backpack for the ski patrol. Nicholas Hosking created a quality portable cocktail bar for his flair-tending competitions while Kate Jackson developed a system to allow a horse to escape immediate danger in a controlled and safe manner. Chloe Jones’ innovative ‘First Desk’, presents a creative music desk which converts efficiently into a music stand to save space in music classrooms. Sam Rooke developed the ‘TooLadder’, a tool rack that mounts onto a ladder, while Tim White has solved the dilemma of supplying water on site for sporting teams by means of a portable water supply called ‘H2O’ – ‘Help 2 Organise’.

Every year the Powerhouse Museum hosts ‘DesignTech’, a showcase of innovative Year 12 projects which are displayed from December through to January. The following six Major Design Projects have been rewarded with nominations for DesignTech 2006.

Katrina Crawford designed the ‘Collapsible Chemical Container’. Based on the well-known wine cask, Katrina tested and experimented with numerous prototypes to explore a better way of delivering agricultural chemicals to farmers, which allows easier recycling and increased safety from spillage.

Madelain King, a current surf lifesaver, saw a need to develop identifiable and unifying swimwear for women lifesavers. Her design incorporated five pieces – a bikini which converts into a one-piece costume, shorts and a belt carrying first aid equipment and a mobile phone.

Phillip Marriott developed a flat pack hothouse that could be utilised by anyone keen to grow their own quality vegetables.

Catherine McKinnon created a range of uniquely styled jewellery from silver, beads and leather. Catherine was enthusiastic at the beginning but realised she had limited practical experience. She displayed excellent initiative by enrolling in a jewellery course to develop skills needed to produce her own jewellery creations.

Kate Ousby designed three aspects of an Egyptian Restaurant - themed table décor with matching waiters’ uniforms and a creative Egyptian meal presented to the examiners.

Sarah Webb listened carefully when friends complained of bruised and aching backs after cherry picking one season. She created an ergonomically suitable cherry-picking bag, which innovatively contains a cooling pack and water supply for the user.

Congratulations to all HSC students on their remarkable achievements this year.

Mr Greg Thornton
Head Lines

Jenny Lavoipierre, Independent Learning Co-ordinator, asked parents to consider how different the lives of today's children are when compared with their lives at the same age, especially the way they were taught at school and the way they learn. She presented some of the exciting research into the brain that has been carried out in the past 10 to 15 years. This research is helping teachers and parents understand so much more about the ways children learn. Understanding each individual student’s preferred learning styles helps the child, the parent and the teacher build on his/her strengths while developing those areas that are not so strong. For the student this self-knowledge can be quite liberating and result in improved self-esteem. Good self-esteem generally means improved learning.

Michelle O’Brien, the Head Librarian, talked about the deluge of information our students are faced with today, particularly from the Internet. Information literacy is now more important than ever to equip our students to be effective participants in the information age. Information literacy involves the skills of defining a need for information, then locating and selecting the most useful information for the purpose at hand. These skills are best taught in a variety of contexts across the curriculum to help students make connections between contexts.

Questions and answers showed the high level of parents' interest in both of these topics and discussion continued over coffee. Parents were also asked to suggest topics they would like to discuss in future forums, especially some of the outside school issues that all parents face.

One of the most important things to come out of the evening was the fact that we are all learners: students are learners, teachers are learners and parents are learners. Life-long learning is a very big part of what makes us human.

PS. The school has a subscription to an online journal called Parenting with the Brain in Mind. Parents who would like a copy of each issue emailed to them should contact Michele Thornton at m.thornton@saints.nsw.edu.au

Captains’ Corner

These past few weeks have proved to be a stressful period. The Year 12s faced Trial HSC examinations, plus, for some, the stress of completing and handing in or performing their major works. However, we got through this little speed bump in our lives. After all, the HSC and UAI, when you really think about it, are just letters. Congratulations to the six Design & Technology students who were nominated for ‘DesignTech’. It’s the largest number of students that Saints’ has ever had nominated at once. We wait in anticipation for any news from the other showcases of the best Major Works in the state.

As per usual our athletes excelled themselves at the WAS Carnival held at Kinross Wolaroi on Thursday 31st August. The team triumphed in achieving a second place in both the boys and girls categories. This is only achieved through plenty of rigorous training that has also been adhered to with many keen and enthusiastic athletes pushing their limits on numerous afternoons down at Stiles Oval.

As the winter sports draw to a close we congratulate not only those teams who made it to the grand finals but all players for their dedication throughout the whole season.

The Spring Fair once again turned out to be a splendid day despite a few concerns of rain. The sun came out and so did the people. Thank you to all who made the day a great success. The addition of the demonstration polocrosse game turned out to be a big hit and the Fashion Parade again drew in a crowd with the really, really incredibly good looking Marsden women and Watson men showing off their best “Zoolander” impressions.

Unfortunately for one of the most popular stalls at the Fair, the Glover House snow cone stall, sales were affected by the weather but spirits were still high. Faces
Census time!

On August 24th, Mrs Tinker’s Year 9 Mathematics class conducted a census. Our census consisted of 10 questions that were chosen and put together by the entire class. We encountered a few problems - i.e. Year 12 in exams and also some Years 11 and 7 classes weren’t able to participate. From the school members that participated we obtained the following results.

Question 1: What year are you in? Results: Year 7 (37), Year 8 (18), Year 9 (60), Year 10 (56) and Year 11 (56). We can conclude from these results that the higher senior years have more people.

Question 2: What gender are you? Males (113) Females (143). We concluded from these results that there are 10% more females than males.

Question 3: How many people in your family? From our results the majority of the students come from families of 2-4 people; although a large number of students came from families of 5-7 people.

Question 4: How do you get to school? Car was the most popular option closely followed by bus.

Question 5: Do you do any extra-curricular activities? The majority of students who participate in extra-curricular activities said that they played sport. In fact 63% of all students chose this.

Question 6: Which of the options best describes where you live? The options were farm, country town, city or overseas. The majority said they lived in a country town. There was some confusion with this question because we did not specify the population required to qualify for a town or a city.

Question 7: Do you have a pet? Yes (217), No (26). 89% of people had a pet.

Question 8: What type of pet do you have? Our results from this question showed the clear majority of people had dogs.

Question 9: Do you play a sport outside of school? The results were as expected - the majority of school members participated in school sport.

Question 10: What are your two favourite subjects? History 9%, Technology 13%, Art 13%, Drama 8%, Language 4%, HSIE 6%, Science 14%, Maths 8%, English 7%, PD/H/PE 18%. It was clear that PD/H/PE was the most popular subject. We were quite disappointed that Maths did not take this position as we believe it is the best subject.

We would like to thank teachers and students for participating in this census and Mrs Tinker for letting us conduct this educational study.

Jessica Alamyar, Emma Croake, Anna Lulham, Ashlie Coates

Christmas Boxes

In response to Felicity MacDougall’s initiative of Christmas boxes to Samaritan’s Purse, Tracey House Year 9 boys spent their Pastoral Care period carefully wrapping and filling a box each with items for young boys between the ages of 10 and 12 in developing countries around the world.

Each box had a variety of things from toothbrushes, soap and face washers, coloured pens to marbles, lollies and clothing. As a result we have 12 boxes to give to Felicity to send overseas to make these children’s Christmas special. Congratulations to the group for the way they took the project on board and for the carefully considered items they chose to send. Well done Scott, Marc, Alex, Ryan, Morgan, Cameron, Thomas, Roy, Dougall, Hugh, Will and “Westie”.

Mrs Tessa Jones
An issue which often causes widespread discussion among both parents and teachers is homework. A recent extension to this discussion is the place of coaching in a child’s education. Many parents today use the services of coaching centres to ensure the entrance of their children into selective schools. Research has shown that many of these students drop-out in Year 9 because of the rigid academic demands. Coaching for the student with special needs is often worthwhile when it complements the class programme. Sometimes in the midst of today’s highly competitive world we lose sight of our children’s need to actually be children. Such a time in a child’s life is vital for the formation of social values and other aspects often referred to as “the hidden curriculum”. Providing our children with a rich variety of experiences is certainly worthwhile but should not be at the expense of their childhood. It is also important to be realistic when making judgements regarding the ability of our children.

Emma Captains NSW team

The highlight of Emma Statham’s (Year 12) running career, without doubt, was being named NSW team captain. Emma’s appointment was announced at a dinner in Hobart the evening prior to the Australian All Schools & Athletics Australia Cross-Country Championships.

Emma won a gold medal in the Australian All Schools Cross-Country 5 x 2kms relay; gold in the teams event for Under 18s girls; 4th place in the Australian All Schools 6 kms Cross-Country and 8th place in Athletics Australia Cross-Country (this was in a very strong field of 50 competitors from all over Australia and New Zealand).

This will be Emma’s last competition at school level for cross-country. During her time at this level she has represented NSW eight times and has won eight gold medals at Nationals, one silver and five state titles. Emma first represented NSW when attending Meadow Flat Primary School in Year 6.

In July this year, Bathurst Rotary Club named Emma as “The Young Achiever of the Month” for her work with the National Youth Forum and charity work towards Bathurst’s Daffodil Cancer Cottage.

Congratulations on all your efforts, Emma!

My autobiography

As part of the English programme, Year 8 study autobiographical writing and produce their own autobiography. This year Mrs Lizzie Moller and Mrs Maree Crofts inspired Mrs Sanders’ group of boys with their presentation of their life story. They taught them scrapbooking!

The boys took to this activity with great enthusiasm producing title pages and other decorated pages reflecting themselves. Tristan Tesoriero and Harry Doyle were the winners of the best title page. I would like to thank these “Library ladies” for their expertise and enthusiasm. The autobiographies have been on display in the entrance to the Library.

Mrs Tessa Jones
How do we, as a society, decide what students should learn at school? Why do they need to know about Federation, but not about how to build a compost heap? Or about the reactions of acids and bases, but not about comparative religion?

I guess there isn’t time to learn about everything, so our society, through government, via the Board of Studies, has determined what all students should be taught about, and then what some should know if they study a particular elective. Everyone should know that matter is composed of atoms, but only some need to calculate the nuclear binding energy of a uranium atom.

I’m not convinced that we’ve got it quite right. For example, while it is important to know about our own history, we seem to be pushing that to the exclusion of a knowledge of world history. The Australian History course in Years 9 and 10 deals with a lot of important areas - such as how immigration has helped to shape our nation. It would also be good for students to learn about the factors that led to conflict in the Middle East. I feel that the structure of the Years 9 and 10 compulsory Geography course may be turning students around the state away from studying elective Geography in Years 9 and 10, and also for the HSC. As someone who has studied a bit of Science, I believe that anthropogenic global warming is the biggest threat facing human society. The one subject where this and other environmental issues are studied in detail - senior Geography - has not attracted sufficient students to run at All Saints’ for Year 11, 2007.

I would argue that our junior Science and Geography courses should place a much greater emphasis on issues such as global warming. The problem is, however, that students do need some background knowledge before they can understand the issue. For example, they should know about wavelengths of radiation, about gases, chemical compounds, the carbon cycle and so on. Focusing on the “big picture” without some knowledge of background and detail is not productive.

Hopefully what schools do achieve is to equip students with the skills to research and critically analyse issues in all areas.

Sparkle Disco

All the glitz and glamour of All Saints’ was on display at the Glover House Disco, held on Friday, September 15th. The ‘Sparkle’ themed disco saw many of the students come dressed in glittery and glamorous costumes. It was excellent to see a large number of students attending and enjoying themselves in what was a very entertaining night!

Annabelle Hope
Bush Children’s Education Foundation

On Thursday, 7th September, Directors from the Bush Children’s Education Foundation visited All Saints’ College to meet the students they are currently supporting with scholarships.

Cliff Cowdroy (Chairman), his wife Sue (Secretary), Trevor Whalley (Vice-Chairman) and his wife Margaret (Director) joined the students for afternoon tea in the Conference Room in Esrom House. All were keen to get to know the students, many of whom they knew by name only. In a letter following the visit Mr Cowdroy wrote, “We came away with many thoughts in our minds, but our strongest impression was the outstanding contribution the school is making to their lives and how satisfying it was to know that the students were so appreciative of both the school and the work of the Foundation”.

Applications for BCEF scholarships are forwarded to the Registrar at All Saints’ College at the beginning of each year. Criteria for selection includes the degree of isolation and remoteness from a regular school, being declared in exceptional circumstances and general aptitude for learning. In almost all cases students must also qualify for a state or federal Living Away From Home Allowance.

The Bush Children’s Education Foundation was established in 1965 and has served the needs of more than 2000 students from isolated areas since then. BCEF was inaugurated by Dr Charles Huxtable, founder of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, together with former Federal Minister Ian Sinclair, Chief Justice Sir Leslie Herron and Mr Ian Hardie.

Mrs Michele Thornton

Dancing with the Staff

Cocktail Party and Auction
Saturday 25th November
This is a fundraiser for the netball girls going to Hawaii next year. Staff and parents start thinking about getting a table for this fun night out!
Left-Handers’ Day

Only such a gathering that Jack the Ripper and Bart Simpson would be allowed to attend took place in the Junior Library on August 11th. International Left-Handers’ Day was originally a day to raise awareness of the everyday obstacles that left-handers face living in a right-handed world. Celebrations went on throughout recess ending with a presentation of a novelty certificate, kindly created by the Library ladies.

Thanks to Ms Williams for supplying the food and to the Library staff for all their help. It would be great to see it become an annual event. Remember that if the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body then only left-handers are in their right mind.

Chloe Jones

Writing Success

Congratulations to Rowan Karrer (Year 12) and Andrew Dean (Year 11) for their recent wins in two writing competitions.

Rowan won an award for a poem of 20 lines or less on “Peace”. This is a wonderful achievement as this is a state-wide competition. Rowan has been invited to Cowra for the presentation of his award. His poem will be printed in The Bathurstian.

Andrew’s short story entitled “Road Trip” was the winning entry for a story of up to 3,000 words focusing on a road trip. His story will be published in The Bathurstian and in the trucking magazine called “Slippery When Wet”. He wins $150. This is another great achievement especially as two years ago Andrew (along with Jakobi Rosewarne) was one of the 12 finalists in the same competition. The magazine will be available in the Library.

Mrs Tessa Jones

Year 5 has worms!!!

Dr Cleaver and Mrs Withers have been working with Year 5 for one period a week with Agriculture. Year 5 planted their own vegetable garden and regularly visit the animals at the back of the school. Recently a worm farm was started. The class researched the ideal conditions required for the worms to thrive including the “do’s and don’ts” of food. There was no hesitation in transferring the worms to their new home and in actual fact, some worms may have been given names.

Hopefully in the future the worm numbers will multiply and the vegetable garden will thrive with the extra fertiliser.

Mrs Kay Murray

VIM Committee for 2006

Editor: Mr Robert Poole       Desktop Publishers: Mrs Cherylene Anderson (Terms 1 & 4) and Ms Isabel Fox (Terms 2 & 3)
Proof Readers: Mr Jock Bidwell, Mrs Olga McKinnon & Mrs Diane Poole. Mrs Jennifer Crofts, Mrs Tessa Jones and Mrs Lesley Tinker (Term 3)

Next VIM Deadline: Friday 27th October 2006       E-Mail: b.poole@ saints.nsw.edu.au
Year 10 Canberra Excursion

On Thursday 14th September, Year 10 travelled to Canberra. Our first stop was the Australian War Memorial where we visited the World War I and II exhibitions. We then had our lunch beside Lake Burley Griffin. In the afternoon we visited Parliament House, where we had a guided tour through the Senate and House of Representatives. We only had a fleeting view of the Prime Minister, John Howard, at Question Time and unfortunately did not see our Local Member Peter Andren. At about 5.30pm, we checked into the Sundown Village Motel in Narrabundah, with dinner provided by the motel at 6.00pm. At around 7.30pm, we were treated to a night at the Phillip Ice-Skating Centre. Most people showed their ice-skating talents, however we had a few falls – notably Megan Woollard whose knee popped out! We returned to the motel at around 10.30pm after a long day, to get some rest.

The next morning we had an early start with a breakfast of toast, baked beans and sausages at 7.00am. At 8.30am, we headed off to the National Museum of Australia to explore Australian culture, history and the environment in the five galleries. We also took part in the rotating theatre which is divided up into three themes with several screens and lighting effects. At 11.30am we had an early lunch outside the museum that was packed for us by the motel.

Next stop was the High Court of Australia. Australia’s highest court of appeal is a seven storey high hall with three courtrooms. None of the courts were in session, but we had three guides who told us about each one. The Number 1 Court was the Constitutional Court with seven judges; the Appellant Court (hearing cases on appeal from the State Supreme Courts) with five judges and the Review Court with one judge.

We were then split up into two groups with girls in one and the boys in the other. Old Parliament House was next on the agenda for the girls where we were guided through the events on the day Gough Whitlam was dismissed as a role play with students taking the parts of the main characters.

Meanwhile the boys headed off to the National Archives of Australia which displays papers of Prime Ministers and Governor-Generals, Royal Commission files and immigration records. At around 2.00pm, the girls visited the National Archives while the boys went to Old Parliament House. Although we were all very tired, we still had one place left to visit – Anzac Parade. Spanning the length of the Parade are 11 memorial sites dedicated to the many Australian and New Zealand soldiers who lost their lives during the wars. We were lucky enough to have a volunteer guide who took us to five of the memorials and spoke about the significance of each one.

At around 4.30pm we started the long trip back to Bathurst with a stop at Yass for dinner at McDonalds or KFC. A big thank you to Miss Humphrys, Mr Clydsdale, Mr Lewis and the Gappies for organising the trip and looking after us over the two days.

Emily Poole